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BOOK REVIEWS

L'Évolution de l'Éducation dans les diverses races humaines. By
CH. LETOURNEAU. Paris; Vigot Frères, 1898. Pp. xviii +
617.

THIS volume, Tome XIX of the Bibliothèque Anthropologique, and the sixteenth by this prolific author, is one which a reader takes up with pleasure, peruses with slowly decreasing interest, and finally lays down with disappointment. "L'éducation," the author says in the first chapter, "c'est l'art de développer l'être humain dans tel ou tel sens, de le doter d'aptitudes, de qualités ou de défauts, qu'abandonné à lui-même il n'aurait pu acquérir." But the definition at once suggests to him the question of the influence of heredity, and hence of the general evolution of education, and it is this interesting field which he sets out to explore.

Beginning with the training of the lower animals, the author proceeds to discuss the development of education among the various savage types, Australasian, Negro, American Indian, Peruvian, and others, often setting forth very good summaries and always writing in an entertaining style. He then takes up the ancient civilizations, the Egyptian, Arab, Jewish, Greek, and Roman, and closes with three chapters devoted to mediæval and modern education and the outlook for the future.

For the mediæval education he has only condemnation, and his general style may be judged from this summary: "En somme rien n'est plus triste que toute cette pédagogie médiévale. Jamais système d'éducation ne fut à la fois plus faux et plus incomplet. . . . L'éducation intellectuelle, l'instruction, à laquelle on a seulement pensé, est tout aussi vicieuse. Elle est purement mnémonique; il ne s'agit pas de stimuler l'intelligence et de lui donner, comme aliment, un savoir sérieux et solide."

Modern education is discussed from a standpoint much more one-sided, even, than that taken by Compayré. Of contributors outside of France the author seems almost wholly ignorant. Comenius has a few lines, but there is not a word concerning Pestalozzi and Froebel,

while the relation of Herbart to modern educational thought seems never to have come to M. Letourneau's attention.

The value of the closing chapter, in which the education of the future is treated, may therefore be inferred. Of America, speaking of the struggle for wealth, he has this to say: "En Amérique, on le crie sur les toits, et la vénération pour le dollar est devenue une religion." This, with a few remarks on "le Décalogue du dollar," expresses his view of us.

It is in part the influence of works of this narrow character which keeps French primary education where it is, in a rut. Here is what professes to be a history, somewhat supplementary to Compayré; and yet it is written by a man who apparently has no access to German or Italian literature, and hence it is narrow in its view, harmful in its bias, and valueless in its bibliography.

What a contrast with a work like Schmid's *Geschichte der Erziehung*, the new Zweite Abteilung of the Vierter Band of which arrived by the same express with Letourneau!

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Les Femmes dans la Science. Par A. REBIÈRE. Pp. 359 + ix.
Paris: Nony & C^{ie}, 1897. 7 fr.

FOR those who are interested in the historical development of mathematics, and who recognize that upon occasion "the clock of time ticks drowsily behind the door and trifles become the amusement of the great and wise," this latest volume of M. Rebière will be a delight. Such a work was also his *Mathématiques et Mathématiciens*, which appeared a few years since—a book for a hammock in summer or an easy chair by the fireplace in winter. Mathematical readers have for some time been aware that the author's brochure which appeared some three years ago under the same title, *Les Femmes dans la Science*, was in process of expansion, and so the present work cannot fail of immediate and generous reception.

The plan is, however, quite different from that adopted in the conference before the Circle Saint-Simon, which formed the original edition. In the present work the encyclopædic arrangement is followed, the names appearing alphabetically. To this biographical matter 285 pages are devoted. This is followed by two interesting notes. In the